> "In an alternate embodiment of the present invention a first group of at least three batteries, or voltage subgroups, is operatively connected to supply a first voltage, the power supply also providing at least a second and third voltage supplied from subgroups of the first group that includes at least one battery, the second and third voltages being less than the first voltage. The power supply comprises a plurality of battery interconnection[s] which are controlled by a battery interconnection controller to supply at least one voltage from different and varying subgroups of the first group. The subgroups are varied so that battery depletion is equalized. In this manner, greater differentials between voltage levels are created and additional groupings of batteries used to supply the at least three voltages are possible." (Emphasis Added.)

The above language of Hallberg describes only a single power supply (or single power source) having a number of selectable voltage levels. The entire Hallberg reference includes nothing about two different power sources, such as the "multi-voltage power source" and the "additional power source," which are included in claim 1.

Further, as the Office Action correctly points out, Hallberg does not disclose circuitry configured to introduce controllable disturbances into a constant power supply voltage (from the multi-voltage power supply). In fact, Hallberg makes no suggestion of that feature. As a result, the Office Action relies on Ehiro (citing FIGS. 1, 4 and 5, column 7, lines 10-50, column 2, lines 15-20).

The Office Action states, with respect to Ehiro, that the cited figures and language show circuitry allegedly configured to introduce controllable disturbances into a constant power supply voltage. However, in Ehiro, VDD is the power supply voltage applied to the device under test (DUT) 21. In contrast, any test signals or waveforms are introduced into a signal input of DUT 21, which is different from its power supply connection and do not introduce disruptions to its power supply voltage VDD. (See column 6, lines 16-56 of Ehiro). Thus, the statements in the Office Action regarding Ehiro are incorrect.

Applicants further note that, even if Hallberg were to disclose a multi-voltage power source and an additional power source of the type featured by claim 1, combining Hallberg with Ehiro would not provide a power tester that is capable of introducing controllable

disturbances into a constant power supply voltage. Rather, test signals would be introduced to a signal input of a DUT. Further, Fuse does not overcome the deficiencies of Hallberg and Ehiro. Thus, claim 18 is non-obvious over the cited references.

Independent claim 28 has limitations similar to that of independent claim 18. Thus, for the same reasons as independent claim 18, Applicants submit that independent claim 28 is allowable as well.

On page 5 of the Office Action, claims 21 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Hallberg, Ehiro and Fuse and further in view of Cronvich, U.S. Patent No. 5,386,183. Also, claims 23 and 33 were rejected under §103(a) based on Hallberg, Ehiro and Fuse and further in view of Lee et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,764,652.

Claims 21 and 23 ultimately depend from independent claims 18, and claims 31 and 33 ultimately depend from independent claim 28. As noted above, Hallberg, Ehiro and Fuse do not teach or suggest the elements of independent claims 18 and 28. Applicants respectfully submit that Cronvich and/or Lee do not overcome the deficiencies of Hallberg, Ehiro and Fuse.

Thus, in general, the dependent claims are also allowable at least by virtue of their dependency, either directly or indirectly, from the allowable independent claims. Further, the dependent claims set forth numerous elements not shown in the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 18-21, 23-31 and 33-36. Favorable action upon all claims is solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,
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